



Provider Supports Subcommittee

Agency Updates

February 8, 2023

DCYF Updates

Spread the Word About \$0 Health Care Premiums

DCYF is partnering with Washington Health Benefit Exchange and Yakima Neighborhood Health Services to inform child care workers about the [Health Care Premium Assistance for Employees of Child Care Facilities](#).

Help your employees or other child care workers take advantage of a \$0 health care premium. Any employee of a DCYF licensed child care facility can contact Yakima Neighborhood Health Services at ccnavi@ynhs.org or 509-574-0826 to see if they qualify and sign up. All employees of child care facilities are eligible to participate in the program and can sign up at any time.

Early Achievers Needs-Based Grant Update

The Early Achievers Needs-Based Grant is available to eligible child care providers participating in Early Achievers each fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).

As of Dec. 28, 2022, 97% of the current fiscal year funds are applied for. Once the funds for this program are depleted, the grant will close until July 1, 2023. The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) encourages all eligible providers to apply for a Needs-Based Grant as soon as possible because these funds are granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information on the Needs-Based Grant, including an [Overview and Frequently Asked Questions](#), please visit the [Early Achievers Pre-Rating](#) webpage. If you have any questions, please email the Early Achievers Needs-Based Grant office at dcyf.needsbasedgrants@dcyf.wa.gov.

Multi-Licensing Now Available for Licensed Caregivers and Child Care Providers

In an effort to increase accessibility to high-quality child care for children and youth in foster care and increase placement capacity throughout the state, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) now offer multi-licensing.

Previously, individuals were restricted from simultaneously offering child care in their homes while fostering. Multi-licensing provides a streamlined process that supports individuals to become licensed in both foster care and child care. [Read more.](#)

DCYF Launches Caregiver Application Portal

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is making it much easier for individuals interested in becoming foster parents to apply.

DCYF launched a new online application portal that streamlines the process and features user-friendly tools. The new portal aids efforts to increase and diversify the population of licensed and kinship caregivers, group care facilities, and Child Placing Agencies (CPAs).

As a reminder, **new foster parent applications are on pause until March 1, 2023**. This does not apply to kinship applications, license renewals, and those getting licensed through a Child Placing Agency.